

***THREE THINGS: Jets defend well in one-goal win
Jets beat Devils 4-3 for first set of back-to-back wins since mid-November***

By Jamie Thomas

WINNIPEG – Tanner Pearson scored at 6:17 of the third period giving the Winnipeg Jets a 4-3 win over the New Jersey Devils at Canada Life Centre. It was Winnipeg's first set of back-to-back wins since mid-November. Alex Iafallo, Jonathan Toews and Gabriel Vilardi scored the other goals for the Jets, Cole Perfetti (2A) and Josh Morrissey (2A) had multi-point games; Connor Hellebuyck ended his personal 10-game winless streak with 24 saves. The Jets will close out their homestand Tuesday against the New York Islanders.

MORE PUCK LUCK

Friday's win over the Kings was a total team effort and the Jets got more of that at least from a secondary scoring perspective. Winnipeg got on the board first in the opening frame when Alex Iafallo scored his ninth on a multi-bounce situation that found its way past Jake Allen for a 1-0 lead at 18:50.

With the Jets trailing 2-1 in the second period, it was more puck luck as well, Jonathan Toews sent Cole Perfetti in on a breakaway, Perfetti hit the crossbar and after a couple bounces, Toews would get credit for his fifth of the season and his second in as many games.

JMO TIES BUFF

With the game tied at three in the third period, Josh Morrissey took a pass from Cole Koepke and skated towards the Devils net and as he crossed the red line, Morrissey placed a perfect pass to Tanner Pearson who had an easy tap-in for the 4-3 goal. It was the Jets defenceman's second point of the day. Morrissey also made a key play blocking a pass out front with time winding down to seal the win for Winnipeg.

Morrissey now has points in five of his last six games for the Jets and is on the verge of making franchise history on numerous fronts. Morrissey tied Dustin Byfuglien for the most multi-point games by a defenceman in franchise history with 89. Morrissey's 409 career points are now also only seven points away from tying Byfuglien's franchise record for the most points by a defenceman (416).

"I mean, we get the pleasure of seeing what he does day in and day out, both with and without the puck. And, obviously his offense speaks for itself," said Cole Perfetti.

"And the play makes the Pears there. Not a lot of guys make that play in this league. So, he's special with the puck, and then obviously, without the puck, he takes real great pride in his defending."

HELD ON AT THE END

Not only did the Jets win today but they also ended a 13-game losing streak in one goal games. Winnipeg had multiple opportunities to score into the empty net as the Devils looked to tie the game. Head coach Scott Arniel liked the way his team buckled down defensively in the third period after a pretty sloppy first two periods by both teams.

"Both goaltenders were under a barrage there. But just the fact that we came out in the third period recognizing that (it's) 3-3 at home. Just go out and play a period, put the chips on the table and I think we did a good job of that," said Arniel.

"Like you mentioned, we didn't give up much and our fourth line scored a big goal."

NHL.com

<https://www.nhl.com/news/new-jersey-devils-winnipeg-jets-game-recap-january-11-2026>

***Pearson breaks tie in 3rd period, Jets rally past Devils
Perfetti, Morrissey each has 2 assists; Glass gets 2 goals for New Jersey, which drops
4th in row***

By Darrin Bauming

WINNIPEG -- Tanner Pearson scored the go-ahead goal in the third period, and the Winnipeg Jets rallied for a 4-3 win against the New Jersey Devils at Canada Life Centre on Sunday.

"I think we're keeping it simple, trying to be responsible defensively, and let that kind of lead to our chances," Pearson said. "Obviously, there's a lot of speed there, and I'm trying to keep up (with) those two (linemates Cole Koepke and Danil Zhilkin). It's just simple hockey. Try not to force too many things, try to wear [the Devils] down."

Pearson put the Jets ahead 4-3 at 6:17 of the third period, sliding the puck under Devils goalie Jake Allen from the crease after receiving a pass from Josh Morrissey from just below the goal line.

"[Koepke] made a good play at the blue line there," Pearson said. "I opened up first, and with [Morrissey] going wide, with how we were scoring goals today, I don't think it's a bad idea to go to the paint there. It was a nice play by him."

Jonathan Toews, Gabriel Vilardi and Alex Iafallo also scored, Cole Perfetti and Morrissey each had two assists, and Connor Hellebuyck made 24 saves for the Jets (17-22-5), who have won two straight after losing their previous 11 (0-7-4).

"The play [Morrissey] makes to [Pearson] there, not a lot of guys make that play in this League," Perfetti said. "He's special with the puck, and then obviously without the puck he takes real great pride in his defending. It's annoying to go against him in practice because he's a great defender as well, and he always gets credit for his offense, but I think his defensive game is pretty incredible, and you see that tonight."

Cody Glass scored twice, Luke Hughes and Jack Hughes each had two assists, and Allen made 18 saves for the Devils (22-21-2), who have lost four in a row.

"Today, when we're in a position to win, we're exposed," New Jersey coach Sheldon Keefe said. "We had some guys that had real tough games here today that made some plays that could really cost us. ... Too many, whether it's just soft around our net or losing structure at key times, just not good enough. There were enough good things that put (us) in a position to win, but too many mistakes that hurt you defensively. It's hard to win like that."

New Jersey has been outscored 20-5 during its losing streak.

"Offense wasn't an issue today," Keefe said. "We had more than enough to win. It's just another example of why we've got to keep reaching the process and the defensive structure, defensive play, awareness, physicality, (and) competitiveness around our net."

Iafallo gave the Jets a 1-0 lead at 18:50 of the first period, putting in his own rebound as it bounced in the slot.

"We just come off of the other night (a 5-1 win against the Los Angeles Kings on Friday), finally winning that game to break the streak," Winnipeg coach Scott Arniel said. "To me, it had everything lined up for it to be that type of game, and we didn't look like we had a whole lot of energy in the tank, and when there is nothing in your legs, it goes to your hands and it goes to your head sometimes. But I really liked the way, especially in the third period, where we hunkered down. We gained zones, we got it in their end, and we did the right things to stay on the right side of that score sheet."

Nico Hischier responded 37 seconds later to tie it 1-1 at 19:27. He jammed the rebound of Luke Hughes' shot from the left face-off dot through Hellebuyck's pads in the crease.

"We did to them on the first goal what they kind of did to us on the other," Devils forward Jesper Bratt said. "We kind of responded quick to a goal against, and I think that's where we did good in the first period. I mean, as soon as we let in a goal, we just come back on our horse. We went to work."

Glass put the Devils in front 2-1 at 1:05 of the second period, finishing a drive to the net after receiving a cross-ice pass from Luke Hughes.

"We did it to ourselves," Glass said. "In the third, we just weren't making the right plays, not the right reads, we weren't connected. But in the first and second periods we did that. And that's why it's frustrating that it went away in the third. ... That's kind of what bit us. It [stinks], but we have to play more consistent hockey."

Toews tied it 2-2 at 2:36. After creating a turnover at Winnipeg's blue line that sent Perfetti in on a breakaway, Toews then jammed in the loose puck in the crease after Perfetti's shot hit the crossbar.

"I knew it hit the crossbar, but I thought it went bar down and out," Perfetti said. "I didn't think it went in right away because I was looking at the ref. We were looking at each other, like, I don't think it went in. So, just happy [Toews] was there to clean it up."

Jonas Siegenthaler appeared to put the Devils ahead 3-2 at 3:28 with a shot from the slot following a scramble in front. The Jets challenged for goaltender interference, and the play was overturned after a video review determined New Jersey forward Paul Cotter made incidental contact with Hellebuyck in the crease that impaired the goaltender's ability to play his position.

However, Glass did give the Devils the lead back when he scored his second of the game at 8:08. He collected a rebound and scored with a quick wrist shot from the bottom of the right circle.

"Playing in front of my family is always a dream come true for me," said Glass, who is from Winnipeg. "I never take playing in the NHL for granted, especially in front of them. I've dreamt of playing the Jets or of just being here, so it's a dream come true. But it just [stinks] not being able to win in front of them."

Vilardi tied it 3-3 at 17:57. Perfetti's backhand attempt from the side of the net hit the post, and Vilardi batted in the loose puck behind Allen as the goaltender swiped at it with his glove.

"I think that game was pretty sloppy for two periods both ways, and both goaltenders were under a barrage there," Arniel said. "But just the fact we came out in the third period recognizing that (it's) 3-3 at home, just go out and play a period and put the chips on the table, and I thought we did a good job of that. We didn't give up much, and our fourth line (Pearson, Koepke and Zhilkin) scored a big goal."

Jets defenseman Colin Miller left the game and did not return for the second period.

"When he fell, obviously lower body, he fell in and hurt himself there," Arniel said. "He came in and tried to skate (before) the start of the second. Didn't feel very good, so we'll reevaluate him tomorrow."

NOTES: Luke Hughes played in his 200th NHL game. ... New Jersey defenseman Johnathan Kovacevic had an assist and blocked two shots in 18:14 of ice time in his season debut following offseason knee surgery. ... Morrissey got his 89th career multipoint game, tying Dustin Byfuglien for the most by a defenseman in Jets/Atlanta Thrashers history.

Canadian Press

<https://www.chrisd.ca/2026/01/11/winnipeg-jets-new-jersey-devils-game-win-story/>

Tanner Pearson's Third-Period Goal Leads Winnipeg Jets Past New Jersey Devils 4-3

By Judy Owen, The Canadian Press

Head coach Scott Arniel was relieved the Winnipeg Jets ended a couple more dubious streaks Sunday.

When Tanner Pearson scored early in the third period and the goal held up as the winner in a 4-3 victory over the New Jersey Devils, it halted one team slump and an NHL record.

The Jets had gone into the contest with an NHL-record 13 consecutive losses in one-goal games, plus they finally won back-to-back games since mid-November.

"See, that's why we didn't shoot it into the empty net, we wanted this to be a one-goal game," Arniel said with a smile.

Winnipeg defeated the Los Angeles Kings 5-1 on Friday, a victory that snapped an 11-game losing streak (0-7-4).

"You know what, such a big hurdle the other night, to get over that game against L.A., to get over that losing streak," Arniel said. "That was the hurdle that we needed to move us forward here."

"Today, again, we weren't perfect but we found a way. All of those kind of things that happened in that streak, I don't want to use the s-word, but when stuff happens, it happens. That's what was kind of going on with us. Now it's put that in the rear-view mirror here."

The Jets (17-22-5) are finally out of the league basement, sitting 31st with 39 points, two points more than the bottom-dwelling Vancouver Canucks (16-23-5).

Being nine points out of a playoff spot in the Western Conference is still the steep hill the Jets have to climb, a turnabout from last season when they won the Presidents' Trophy for finishing with the NHL's best record.

"I was saying today, it's interesting, used to always be running to the highlights or catch what's going on with Colorado, Dallas and Minnesota," Arniel said. "And now I'm not even looking at them."

"I'm looking at all these other teams in the (Western Conference), what are they doing tonight? It's kind of what our mindset is, catch teams above us now."

Alex Iafallo, Jonathan Toews and Gabriel Vilardi also scored for the Jets. Cole Perfetti and Josh Morrissey both recorded a pair of assists.

Connor Hellebuyck made 24 saves for Winnipeg, which last put up back-to-back wins on Nov. 15-18.

"That's frustrating that took so long for that," Perfetti said of two wins a row. "But, it doesn't kind of seem real."

"There was obviously stretches where we didn't play our best, but there was also a lot of hockey that we did play well. So to get, for that to be the first back-to-back wins since then, it's just, it's nice to get over the hump and start playing better hockey and start getting some wins."

Winnipeg-born forward Cody Glass scored twice and Nico Hischier also had a goal for the Devils. Luke Hughes and Jack Hughes both had two assists.

Jake Allen stopped 18 shots for New Jersey (22-21-2), which lost four consecutive games for the first time since early December.

The game was tied 1-1 after the opening period and 3-3 heading into the third.

"I think that game was pretty sloppy for two periods both ways and both goaltenders were under a barrage there," Arniel said.

"But just the fact we came out in the third period recognizing that 3-3 at home, just go out and play a period and put the chips on the table, and I thought we did a good job of that. We didn't give up much and our fourth line scored a big goal."

Morrissey rushed wide to the side of the net with the puck and quickly sent it to Pearson out front, who redirected it past Allen to make it 4-3 at 6:17 of the third.

Pearson, who scored his sixth goal of the season, said it felt good to close out a tight game on the right side.

“Sometimes the game is pretty funny,” he said. “We’ve played better than that and ended up on the losing side.

“It’s a tie game going into the third, those are the games where you’ve got to put your foot down, especially at home. We can’t take any games off nowadays. That was a good one for us.”

The Jets wrap up a five-game homestand (2-1-1) on Tuesday against the New York Islanders.

Winnipeg Free Press

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/01/11/jets-beat-devils-for-back-to-back-wins>

Jets beat Devils for back-to-back wins Second straight victory after snapping 11-game losing skid

By: Ken Wiebe

This time, it was simply two steps forward — and no steps back — for the Winnipeg Jets.

After putting an 11-game losing skid in the rear-view mirror, the Jets have now earned consecutive victories for the first time in nearly two months after a 4-3 victory over the New Jersey Devils on Sunday.

This was an eventful matinee, with both teams showing the desperation one would expect from groups with lofty expectations that currently reside below the playoff line.

With the game tied 3-3 in the third period, Jets defenceman Josh Morrissey was his elusive self, getting involved offensively and finding Tanner Pearson with a pass at the top of the crease to provide the decisive marker.

“It’s a tie game going into the third, those are the games where you’ve got to put your foot down,” said Pearson, who is up to six goals for the season. “What we went through (during the losing streak) was hard. We got that one and hopefully, we can keep stringing these ones together.”

The Jets, who improved to 17-22-5, close out this five-game homestand on Tuesday against 2025 first overall pick Matthew Schaefer and the New York Islanders.

Winnipeg hadn’t earned consecutive victories since Nov. 15 and Nov. 18 against the Calgary Flames and Columbus Blue Jackets.

“That’s frustrating that it took so long for that. But, it doesn’t seem real,” said Jets forward Cole Perfetti. “There were some stretches where we didn’t play our best. It’s nice to get over the hump and start playing better hockey and start getting some wins.”

Stacking wins is now the order of the day for a Jets team nine points out of the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

"We're a streaky team," said Jets head coach Scott Arniel. "We liked streaks last year, we've got streaks going this year. We're streaky."

Let's take a closer look at this one:

Fourth line mojo

With Pearson scoring on Sunday, it gave him two goals and three points during the past three games, as the fourth line contributed a goal in each of those contests.

With secondary scoring being such a storyline for the Jets during the first half of the season, this combination with Danny Zhilkin between Pearson and Cole Koepke appears to be finding its groove.

"We're trying to be responsible defensively and let that kind of lead to our chances," said Pearson. "Obviously, there's a lot of speed there and I'm trying to keep up to those two. It's just simple hockey. Try not to force too many things, try to wear them down."

Koepke chipped in an assist on Pearson's goal and has also been on the scoresheet in each of the past three games since returning to the lineup.

Zhilkin has looked extremely comfortable since being recalled from the Manitoba Moose of the American Hockey League and he saw another 72 seconds of action on the penalty kill in his third NHL game in just under eight minutes of ice time.

The homecoming

Winnipegger Cody Glass scored a pair of goals for the visitors in front of family members and friends.

The first goal showed off his soft hands as he drove hard to the net and buried a crisp feed from Jack Hughes.

The second required a bit of good fortune as he pounced on a rebound and unleashed a shot that caromed in off Jets defenceman Dylan DeMelo.

"It's nice," said Glass. "Playing in front of my family is always a dream come true for me. I never take playing in the NHL for granted, especially in front of them. I've dreamt of playing the Jets, or of just being here, so it's a dream come true, but it just sucks not being able to win in front of them."

Glass wasn't sure how many supporters he had in the crowd.

"I always put down that I'm inviting my family. There are pretty much four of them, but I always put 30 to 40 (people) on the list," said Glass. "My dad is always pretty good at picking up some scavengers."

Glass, who was chosen sixth overall by the Vegas Golden Knights in the 2017 NHL Draft, is up to nine goals this season, leaving him on pace to eclipse his career-high of 14, set with the Nashville Predators in 2022-23.

The challenge

Just 3:28 into the second period, the Devils thought they had taken a 3-2 lead — one shift after Jonathan Toews tied the game for the Jets.

Jonas Siegenthaler ripped a slapshot home with the net vacated because Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck was unable to reset after Devils forward Paul Cotter made contact with him.

Hellebuyck was demonstrative after the puck went in urging Arniel to challenge the play.

“Yeah, that one was a lot different than the one last game,” said Arniel. “Because the guy (Cotter) came in and didn’t allow him to push back to go back to the net. Yeah, we saw the emotion there.”

The Jets used a coach’s challenge on the play and it was successful, leaving the game tied, at least momentarily.

Arniel also considered using a challenge on the Devils first goal from Nico Hischier, as it appeared the right skate of Jack Hughes made contact with Hellebuyck’s left skate before the rebound chance went in.

But after taking a long look at the replay, the Jets opted against using the coach’s challenge on that particular play.

“We were 50-50 on that one,” said Arniel. “That is what happened in the last game. We weren’t sure. The next one (the Siegenthaler goal) was a little more obvious.”

The key play

Pearson converts a pass from Morrissey for the game-winning goal at 6:17 of the third period.

The three stars

Josh Morrissey, Jets, Set up a pair of goals, including the game-winner.

Cole Perfetti, Jets, Chipped in a pair of assists.

Cody Glass, Devils, Scored a pair of goals.

The injury

Jets defenceman Colin Miller left the game late in the first period after he was on the receiving end of an awkward hit from Devils winger Arseny Gritsyuk.

Gritsyuk caught Miller from behind and he suffered an injury to his left leg on the play.

Miller needed help getting to the locker room and after further evaluation, he came up to test things out prior to the second period starting, but after a quick twirl, he made his way back down the tunnel and didn’t return with what the Jets are calling a lower-body injury.

The timing couldn’t be worse for Miller, who returned to the lineup on Friday and did an excellent job on the second pairing with Dylan Samberg.

Arniel said Miller would be evaluated on Monday, but the Jets aren’t back on the ice until Tuesday so an update won’t likely be provided until then.

Should Miller need to be placed on injured reserve, it could provide the Jets with the opportunity to recall top defence prospect Elias Salomonsson.

Extra! Extra!

Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck made his 26th start of the season and recorded his first win since Dec. 13, which was his first game back after undergoing arthroscopic knee surgery.

Hellebuyck finished with 24 saves as he improved to 10-12-4 for the season.

Alex Iafallo, Gabe Vilardi and Jonathan Toews also scored for the Jets.

The healthy scratches for the Jets were defenceman Luke Schenn and forward Gustav Nyquist.

Former Manitoba Moose defenceman Johnathan Kovacevic made his season debut for the Devils, replacing Dougie Hamilton (healthy scratch) in the lineup. Kovacevic, who was chosen by the Jets in the third round (74th overall) of the 2017 NHL Draft took 22 shifts for 18:04 of ice time and chipped in an assist.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/sports/2026/01/11/jets-prospects-report-zhilkin-makes-case-for-spot-on-fourth-line-since-call-up>

Jets prospects report: Zhilkin makes case for spot on fourth line since call-up

By: Mike McIntyre

There haven't been a lot of draft-and-develop success stories in recent years for the Winnipeg Jets, with trades and free agent signings the more familiar route to filling out a roster that is supposed to be in "win-now" mode.

So the promotion last week of Danny Zhilkin from the Manitoba Moose, coupled with strong play in his first three NHL games, is certainly something for the organization to celebrate.

The 22-year-old, selected in the third round of the 2022 draft, leads off our latest monthly rundown of Winnipeg's talent pipeline, which involve two dozen young players currently skating in various leagues and levels.

Zhilkin hasn't looked out of place at all, skating on a fourth line with Tanner Pearson and Cole Koepke that has found the net in three consecutive contests, including Pearson's game-winner in Sunday's 4-3 triumph over the New Jersey Devils.

And while Zhilkin still looking for his first big-league point — Pearson has two goals and an assist and Koepke has one tally and two helpers — he's making a compelling case to stay in the lineup.

"He has got NHL speed. He can skate and he thinks the game real well," said Jets coach Scott Arniel.

"We talked about him when he first came up that was one of the things the coaches said, 'His hockey IQ is good,' and it's hard when kids jump in, especially their first game in the NHL, they jump in January and it is fast moving water and it can be (hard) for guys and I think he has handled it real well.

"I like that line. They have given us good minutes. To me it is what you hope you are going to get from that line and he is a young guy that has taken advantage of the opportunity that has been put in front of him."

Zhilkin, who had 14 points (7G, 7A) in 30 games with the Moose, has clearly earned the trust of the bench boss by virtue of the fact he's even drawn some penalty killing work.

"I was working hard for this moment. It's pretty special, for sure," he said prior to Sunday's 4-3 win over the New Jersey Devils. "I think Cole and Tanner they play with a lot of speed and a lot of grit to their game. So they're a great line mates to play with."

So who might be next to make the jump to the NHL, especially if the Jets were to become sellers by the trade deadline and spots currently occupied were to open up?

Let's start with the farm, where Winnipeg has 11 other drafted players — 10 of their own and one obtained by trade — currently with the Moose.

AHL

F DAVID GUSTAFSSON (2nd round, 2018) — The 25-year-old is tied with veteran Walker Duehr for the team lead in scoring with 21 points (7G, 13A) in 32 AHL games. We wouldn't be surprised to see him back up with the big club at some point soon.

D VILLE HEINOLA (1st round, 2019) — He's picked it up after a rough start and leads Moose blueliners in scoring with 18 points (2G, 16A) in 34 games. While the ship may have sailed on a full-time Jets career, he could be a potential trade chip

D TYREL BAUER (6th round, 2020) — He continues to make the highlight reels for some heavyweight scraps that leave you worried about his long-term health. Bauer has three points (1G, 2A) in 26 games and leads the club with 64 penalty minutes. Will he ever get a look at the NHL level?

F NIKITA CHIBRIKOV (2nd round, 2021) — A nightmare since being demoted by the Jets early in the year. He has just two points (1G, 1A) in 18 games and you wonder if the extra weight/muscle he added during the summer is a detriment? Much more is expected from a guy who had 65 points (24G, 41A) in 100 previous AHL games over the past two years.

F BRAD LAMBERT (1st round, 2022) — Like Chibrikov, it's been a rough ride since returning from the NHL. Lambert has seven points (3G 4A) through 21 games with the Moose and isn't exactly helping raise his value after his agent publicly suggested a trade might be in his best interests.

D ELIAS SALOMONSSON (2nd round, 2022) — A return to the NHL in the near future seems likely, especially with Haydn Fleury and now Colin Miller injured with the Jets. Salomonsson remains Winnipeg's top blue-line prospect. He now has eight points (1G, 7A) in 25 games.

F FABIAN WAGNER (6th round, 2022) — He recently returned from an injury absence and has just one goal in 14 games.

G DOM DIVINCENTIIS (7th round, 2022) — He's struggled since being returned to the Moose following a brief call-up with the Jets last month. DiVincentiis now has a 3.01 goals against average and .897 save percentage in 20 appearances.

F COLBY BARLOW (1st round, 2023) — Slow and steady for the rookie pro, who now has seven points (3G, 4A) through 31 games. He's likely realizing the jump from junior can be a tough one.

F BRAYDEN YAGER (1st round, 2023) — The only player on this list not actually drafted by the Jets, but we include him because of the high-profile trade with Pittsburgh for 2022 first-rounder Rutger McGroarty. Yager has hit a bit of a rough patch lately and is stuck at 14 points (4G, 10A) in 34 games.

G THOMAS MILIC (5th round, 2023) — After making his NHL debut with the Jets, Milic has returned to the farm and continues to play well. He has a 2.30 GAA and .911 SV% through 14 games.

ECHL

F JACOB JULIEN (5th round, 2023) — The 21-year-old suffered a lower-body injury during Moose training camp. Now fully healthy, he's been assigned to the Norfolk Admirals to work off some rust and get his pro career underway. He has yet to record a point in his first two games. We'd expected to see him with the Moose later in the year.

OHL

F KEVIN HE (4th round, 2024) — The captain of the Niagara Ice Dogs was recently traded to the Flint Firebirds, who are loading up for a potential Memorial Cup run. He has eight points (4G, 4A) in his first six games with the new club and 39 points (18G, 21A) in 34 overall games.

F KIERON WALTON (6th round, 2024) — Another player on the move. Walton scored in his debut with the Peterborough Petes after putting up 52 points (24G, 28A) in 33 games with the Sudbury Wolves. He is among the OHL scoring leaders and sure looks like a steal for the Jets given his draft position.

D EDISON ENGLE (6th round, 2025) — The Illinois teen is an offensive defenceman with 22 points (2G, 20A) in 36 games for the Brantford Bulldogs. He's expected to head to college next year to play with Ohio State.

F JACOB CLOUTIER (7th round, 2025) — He's really picking up the pace and has 28 points (9G, 19A) in 37 games with the Saginaw Spirit.

WHL

F OWEN MARTIN (3rd round, 2025) — The Oakbank product has been a consistent producer for the Spokane Chiefs. He has 22 points (12G, 10A) in 37 games — just two goals short of his career high he set in 54 games as a rookie in 2023-24.

NCAA

D GARRETT BROWN (4th round, 2022) — The two-way defenceman with the University of Denver has already matched his career-high of eight points (1G, 7A) — but in exactly half the 42 games it took him last year.

F ZACH NEHRING (3rd round, 2023) — A key contributor for a Western Michigan squad which won the Frozen Four a year ago. The North Dakotan has 15 points (6G, 9A) in 22 games so far this year after putting up 30 points (13G, 17A) in 42 games a year ago.

D SASCHA BOUMEDIENNE (1st round, 2025) — Be very excited, Jets fans. The 18-year-old sure looks like the real deal, fresh off a terrific World Juniors in which he helped lead Sweden to the gold medal. Boumedienne had two goals and two assists in seven games on that big stage. He has six points (2G, 4A) in 19 games with Boston University this year.

EUROPE

D ALFONS FREIJ (2nd round, 2024) — Another bonafide blue-line prospect who also captured gold at the World Juniors. The 19-year-old with a big personality had seven assists in seven games and one epic celebration that went viral. He has two assists in 25 games with Timrå IK of the top Swedish men's league.

F MARKUS LOPONEN (5th round, 2024) — The 19-year-old Finn left home last year to play in the WHL, putting up a solid 44 points (19G, 25A) in 65 games with the Victoria Royals. He's now gone back, suiting up with HPK Hämeenlinna of SM-liiga where he has five points (2G, 3A) in 33 games.

F VIKTOR KLINGSELL (5th round, 2025) — He would appear to be too good for the Swedish junior league, with 34 points (13G, 21A) in 17 games after putting up 39 (17G, 22A) in 43 contests last year. He's now been promoted to the top men's league, with one goal so far through 12 games.

Winnipeg Sun

https://www.winnipegsun.com/sports/pearson-pierces-the-devils-as-the-jets-win-4-3-on-sunday/article_ad69f0c7-40aa-4d4e-8ec8-04220fae30a2.html

Pearson pierces the Devils as the Jets win 4-3 on Sunday

By Gordon Anderson

Tanner Pearson scored the winner, and the Jets extended their win streak to two games following a 4-3 victory over the New Jersey Devils downtown on Sunday afternoon.

Pearson skated into the crease before redirecting a Josh Morrissey pass between the legs of Jake Allen at 6:17 for his sixth goal of the campaign and second in his last three games. Pearson has two goals and one assist in his last three.

"(Cole Koepke) made a good play at the blue line there. I opened up first and with Morrissey going wide, with how we were scoring goals today, I don't think it's a bad idea to go to the paint there," Pearson said. "It was a nice play by him."

This was Winnipeg's fourth game in six days. The Devils didn't register their first shot of the third period until 12:19 when Nico Hischier tested Connor Hellebuyck from the right face-off circle. In total, the visitors outshot the Jets 27-22.

"I don't think (Devils head coach) Sheldon Keefe was overly excited about his group," Jets head coach Scott Arniel said. "That game was pretty sloppy for two periods, both ways, and both goaltenders were under a barrage there. The fact we came out in the third period recognizing that three to three at home, just go out and play a period and put the chips on the table and I thought we did a good job of that."

Hellebuyck stopped 24 shots for the victory. It was his first win since a 5-1 victory over the Washington Capitals on Dec. 13. The appearance against the Capitals was his first game post knee surgery.

Jonatha Toews, Gabe Vilardi, and Alex Iafallo also scored for the Jets. Perfetti picked up two assists. He has four assists in his last two games.

Winnipeg native Cody Glass scored twice for the Devils. Nico Hischier also scored for the visitors. Allen stopped 18 of 22 shots.

The Jets host the New York Islanders on Tuesday night.

Ice Chips

Morgan Barron was an injury-related scratch. He was also a scratch for Friday's game against the Kings. Gustav Nyquist and Luke Schenn were healthy scratches. Colin Miller left the game with a lower-body injury. His last shift ended at 16:41 of the first period.

Getting a leg up

The Jets have scored the opening goal in six consecutive games. Iafallo got the party started at 18:50 when his shot from the slot deflected off Simon Nemec before crossing the goal line. Nino Niederreiter picked up the primary assist as he found Iafallo in the slot. After going 17 games without a point, Niederreiter has two assists in his last two games. The Jets are 15-7-3 when they score first.

Another late one

The Jets allowed another late goal in a period when Hischier managed to shake off a Neal Pionk challenge in the goal crease before jamming the puck underneath Hellebuyck for his 13th of the season at 19:27 of the first period. In three of the last four games, the Jets have allowed a goal in the last minute of a period. Mark Stone scored late in the second in the 4-3 overtime loss to the Vegas Golden Knights on Tuesday. Connor McDavid then scored late in the second in the 4-3 loss to Edmonton on Thursday night.

Call confirmed

The Jets were successful where their second video challenge in as many games. Jonas Siegenthaler appeared to have scored his first goal of the season at 3:28 of the second period, but the goal was nullified for interference as Paul Kotter collided with Hellebuyck, preventing the netminder from moving from his left to his right to stop the shot. The Jets also challenged Quinton Byfield's second-period goal against the Kings on Friday night. That goal was allowed to stand.

https://www.winnipegssun.com/sports/winnipeg_jets/blue-paint-specials-help-jets-to-a-4-3-win-over-the-devils/article_4df31fc7-c8b2-40d1-bc54-8d7b5a613c6d.html

Blue-paint specials help Jets to a 4-3 win over the Devils

By Gordon Anderson

Goals on a stats sheet don't look either pretty or ugly, but they count all the same.

The Jets scored three blue-paint specials in a 4-3 victory over the New Jersey Devils on Sunday afternoon at Canada Life Centre..

"The thing that I like about it, the goals that we got, we go them by driving to the blue paint," head coach Scott Arniel said after Jets extended their win streak to a modest two games.

On Tanner Pearson's winner at 6:17 of the third period, the goal was a direct result of getting into the crease, because you never know what could happen.

Sure enough, Pearson made a nuisance of himself before redirecting a Josh Morrissey pass between the legs of Jake Allen for his sixth of the season and second goal in three games.

Jonathan Toews netted his sixth of the season when he jammed home a rebound off a Cole Perfetti chance at 2:36 of the second period, and Gabe Vilardi skated into the crease and swatted home a mid-air rebound at 17:57 after Perfetti was turned away by Allen. The goal was Vilardi's 18th of the campaign.

Even the Alex Lafallo goal to open the scoring at 18:50 of the first period happened because he followed up on his initial shot from the slot and bullied his way to the crease, thereby helping the puck bounce off bodies and into the back of the net for his eighth goal of the season.

"You always talk about games like this where you have got to score ugly and a lot of those goals in that blue paint, going in to find those rebounds or if it is sitting there, just doing those types of things in a game like that is big," Arniel said.

They were playing their fourth game in six days, and Arniel says that fatigue was a growing concern, he wasn't expecting a lot of pretty goals, and he wasn't disappointed from that perspective.

"To me, it had everything lined up for it to be that type of game and we didn't look like we had a whole lot of energy in the tank and when there is nothing in your legs it goes to your hands and it goes to your head sometimes, but I really like the way, especially in the third period, where we hunkered down. We did the right things to stay on the right side of that score sheet."

The win was the team's first back-to-back run of victories since mid-November.

"That's frustrating that that took so long for that," Perfetti said. "But, it doesn't kind of seem real. There was obviously stretches where we didn't play our best, but there was also a lot of hockey that we did play well. So to get, for that to be the first back-to-back win since then, it's just, it's nice to get over the hump and start playing better hockey and start getting some wins."

Perfetti had two assists and now has four assists in his last two games.

The Jets host the New York Islanders on Tuesday night at Canada Life Centre.

TSN.ca

<https://www.tsn.ca/nhl/video/>

Full 'team effort' helps Jets earn back-to-back wins (VIDEO)

After snapping their losing streak on Friday, the Jets have won back-to-back games. Dan Robertson and Kevin Sawyer discuss Winnipeg's victory over New Jersey.

Sunday Overreactions: Arniel, Keefe both on hot seat

By Michael Amato

One of the more remarkable things about this NHL season is that we've crossed the halfway point without a head coach being fired. That's unusual at the best of times, but in a turbulent campaign like this one, it's borderline stunning.

That doesn't mean there haven't been some close calls, though. It felt like John Hynes was on the ropes earlier in the year before the Minnesota Wild turned things around. Andrew Brunette seemed as good as gone back in November, but rose from the mat after a nine-count as the Nashville Predators have clawed their way back up the standings. Marc Savard was let go by the Toronto Maple Leafs just before the holidays, as Craig Berube clung to his job in somewhat of a Christmas miracle. Now the Leafs are back in the mix for a playoff spot again, and Berube is on solid ground for the time being.

However, all of those coaches had the benefit of time on their side to turn things around. It's now getting to a critical juncture in the season where missteps are running out if you plan on playing spring hockey.

The New Jersey Devils and Winnipeg Jets are clearly under the microscope now, with both falling well below expectations and needing something positive to happen immediately. Jets head coach Scott Arniel and Devils bench boss Sheldon Keefe are both feeling the pressure and need some miraculous bounce back to cool down their seats.

Scott Arniel and Sheldon Keefe are both coaching for their jobs

The Jets and Devils will meet Sunday afternoon with serious potential consequences for the loser. Winnipeg quieted the noise briefly on Friday, finally picking up a victory after losing 11 in a row. Meanwhile, New Jersey has lost seven of nine outings, including a 9-0 trouncing at the hands of the New York Islanders earlier this week. Losses like that get everyone's attention, and if Keefe's seat wasn't hot already, it is now.

Most coaches who get fired in the middle of the season are usually those whose teams are in unexpected spots in the standings, and both the Devils and Jets are nowhere near where they want to be. Winnipeg was the Presidents' Trophy winner a year ago and is now tied for last in the NHL, while the Devils were supposed to be an automatic playoff team after winning eight of their first nine games, but now find themselves close to the Eastern Conference basement with a minus-22 goal differential. It certainly does feel like both Arniel and Keefe need to put together a string of wins in the worst way to save their jobs.

Overreaction? – No

There are some troubling signs for each coach. When it comes to the Devils, the fact that the return of Jack Hughes from injury hasn't done anything to boost the team whatsoever is concerning. New Jersey feels like a group that was expecting to land Quinn Hughes via trade

and hasn't recovered from the deal falling apart. Plus, the fact that \$9M defenceman Dougie Hamilton is going to be a healthy scratch likely won't help team camaraderie. It's Keefe's job to hold everything together, and general manager Tom Fitzgerald has been quiet lately, not giving his coach a vote of confidence.

As for the Jets, their biggest issue has been a lack of secondary scoring after losing Nik Ehlers last summer. Arniel finally moved Gabriel Vilardi away from Kyle Connor and Mark Scheifele, who have both been excellent, but it may be too little too late. The fact that Arniel's been so hesitant to split up Scheifele and Connor to try and spark other Jets forwards could be viewed as complacency.

Ultimately, someone is going to lose another game on Sunday and only hear the chatter get louder. At some point, something has to give.